TOK REFLECTION

**How important is consistency in moral reasoning?**

The values and principles of human beings differ. What one individual may consider sacred or important, another may regard it as useless; this being in accordance with a certain topic such as child labour. The planks that separate the values and beliefs of human beings are the diversity argument and the lack of foundations argument. With the diversity argument, say if child labour is the norm or is acceptable in a certain culture, there is no way of saying that it is wrong. On a global perspective, the majority would argue that it is in-humane for children to be working in hard or harsh conditions but the presence of a single culture that allows it overrules the fact of it entirely being “wrong”. We cannot use the ways of knowing; perception and reason to argue with moral principles simply because moral reasoning is not tangible and there is no logical way of interpreting a situation with it.

**Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?**

The self-interest theory states that human beings are always selfish. Everything a person does all leads to them being selfish (definitional argument), human beings are naturally selfish creatures who strive to survive (evolutionary argument) and the issue of motherly love is questionable through the hidden benefits argument. If we use emotion with the hidden benefits argument, it can be argued that a mothers emotions make her selfish and oblivious to the feelings of her child such as in the case of a mother placing her child in a ballet class when the child utterly despises dancing and it hurts his/her feet. The issue of her emotions (which could be the pride of seeing her child dance) make her selfish. If she truly loved her child wouldn’t she be inclined to do as they wish or what makes them happy all the time? Then the issue of spoiling the child comes into play-does loving a child mean giving them the best of everything even if it ruining their character. So really, it could be argued that individuals can be both selfish and self-less and their ethical values could be derived from a mixture of both. Kant theory suggests that there is no room for common sense and “to do the right thing is what motivates us”. His theory allows us to merge ethics as being a matter of both the head and the heart.